The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1919.

WHOLE NO. 1087. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 48.

Pretexts are not wanting when one wishes to get them.—Goldoni.

Congress and the La Follette-Costigan Unemployment Relief Bill

Congress should lose no time in enacting the La Follette-Costigan bill authorizing the appropriation of $375,000,000 for the relief of unemployment distress in cooperation with the States.

Over eight million workers are unemployed. With their family dependents, at least twenty-four million are penniless.

Social welfare workers familiar with the intimate lives of the unemployed tell appalling stories of the sinister results of prolonged unemployment and inadequate relief.

The unemployed are overwhelmed with discouragement and desperation.

Bitterness is developing, and there is a general spiritual deterioration among those millions who are not permitted to work and are not adequately fed and clothed.

Cynicism and resentment against society is growing.

Family affection has been sorely tried. Family groups have disintegrated. Home discipline has suffered.

Malnutrition is lowering the resisting power of jobless adults and their children in hundreds of thousands of cases.

With this national army of eight million unemployed and their dependents, both private and public local relief are admittedly unable to cope with the situation.

The unemployment crisis is a national emergency. It must be met with national measures.

The only national organization representing all the people and with adequate financial means at its disposal is the Government of the United States.

The La Follette-Costigan bill recognizes the moral responsibility of the Government to intervene in this crisis.

Confronted with the outstretched hands of this army of eight million jobless and penniless workers, with them and their families enduring untold suffering, philosophies of government should be cast aside and political maneuvering should be discarded.

In times of distress our Government has fed the Russians, the Chinese, and other foreigners.

It has cared for our own victims of famine, fire and flood.

It has come to the rescue of farmers and veterans.

It has recently made hundreds of millions of dollars of Government funds available for our prosperous corporations, large and small.

With this record available, the Government cannot turn its back to the eight million unemployed.

The emergency in which these jobless workers and their families find themselves is far greater than the emergency of the financial interests which the Government has so liberally assisted.

Millions of these unemployed are suffering from hunger and cold.

Millions of their children have been forced to leave school and are being stunted mentally and physically because of inadequate food and other necessaries of life.

Delay in providing relief means the continued spread of disease and the onward march of unnecessary death.

The national emergency is here.

It is the duty of Congress to meet this emergency with the same spirit of patriotism to which they consecrated themselves when they took the oath of allegiance to the Government and pledged their support to uphold the Federal Constitution, which was set up to "establish justice," "insure domestic tranquility" and "promote the general welfare" of our citizens.

Eight million unemployed workers and their families are waiting for the relief that the Federal Government alone can give.

This relief is provided in the La Follette-Costigan act.

Congress should pass it promptly and without weakening amendments.

Government Must Relieve Distress of Unemployed, Senator Costigan Says

Jobless and Dependents Starving—Acid Test of Americanism—Faith in Government Menaced—Refusal of Congress to Relieve Jobless Would Mean "Billions for Big Business, But No Mercy for Mankind."

Washington, Feb. 6.—Senator Edward P. Costigan, in a speech today, made an emphatic declaration of the imperative need of Federal relief for unemployment distress throughout the United States in his speech in favor of the La Follette-Costigan bill authorizing an appropriation of $375,000,000 for ameliorating the nation-wide destitution caused by the action of American businessmen in refusing to employ over 8,000,000 workers.

Acid Test of Americanism

"It is," he said, "an acid test of true democracy, true republicanism, and true Americanism as well.

"The nations are about to come out into the open.

"I do not know who they are, but if the President also is opposed to it, more is the pity."

He declared it was the intention of both himself and Senator La Follette, the sponsors of the bill, to press it with complete ease so that the country may know the facts.

Senators Callous to Starving Jobless

"This legislation," Senator Costigan continued, "presents a fundamental issue. It may be confused, but it cannot be evaded by a timid and reluctant Congress.

"If Senators admit their willingness to see children and women and men starve under compulsion, if the jobless people are blameless, a new and black chapter will have been written in American history.

"I am not now challenging the sincerity of all here who oppose Federal relief. However, I make bold to say without qualification that they fail to represent not only the standards of America's most glorious records, but also the solemn constitutional obligations imposed on every member of this body.

Faith in Government Imperiled

"Today's drive against Federal relief in cooperation with the States is well calculated to imperil, if possible, the event the preservation of American morale and faith in government, and the conservation of the infinitely valuable human resources, even the lives of countless men, women and children of our common country.

Senate's Record at Stake

"Let any devious course of delay be adopted, and this Senate will have made a record which will irreparably stain its reputation.

"More than 100 years ago, America rang with Pinckney's flaming utterance 'Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!'

Billions for Business, Nothing for Jobless

"If following the legislative record it has already made in this session, this body refuses to admit the justice of this pending legislation, which is grounded in well-established and constitutional precedents and firmly safeguarded against abuse, a new chapter of sinister significance and far-reaching consequence will be heard in America.

"That slogan, I fear will be: 'Billions for big business, but no mercy for mankind.

"'Billions in doles from the peoples' taxes for bankers, railroad executives and financial institutions through Government's business and finance organizations, but not one Federal cent for humanity.'

Indisputable Facts

"Of course, what I am saying is based on certain assumptions. They are these:

"That the lives of countless American citizens, without fault of their own, are today as definitely in danger as if menaced by flood, famine, fire and earthquake; that local and State agencies and the splendid earlier responses of private charity are breaking down far and near under the impact of overwhelming human need; and that there is at this hour no stabilizing factor fit to cope with the overwhelming emergency, except the Federal Government acting in cooperation with States, counties, municipalities, with local relief contributions and other local forces and agencies."

$375,000,000 Government Fund For the Relief of Unemployment Demanded by Senator La Follette

Workers' Savings Lost—Malnutrition and Disease Spreading—Living and Health Standards Breaking—Jobless in Poverty and Despair—Government That Organized Wealth Must Not Refuse Relief to Unemployed.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Unless Congress immediately makes liberal appropriations for Federal unemployment relief, the living standards of millions of people in the United States will be debased and millions of children "will be maimed in body, if not warped in mind, by the effect of malnutrition," declared Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin, in concluding a six-hour speech in the U. S. Senate in favor of the enactment of the La Follette-Costigan bill to authorize the appropriation of $375,000,000 by the States in relieving unemployment distress.

"We are in the third winter of the most serious economic crisis which has ever confronted this country," Senator La Follette said.

Workers' Savings Lost

"As that depression goes on, its cumulative effect, so far as the former wage earner is concerned, rises almost in geometrical proportion.

"The savings put by out of the meager earnings, made possible through the sacrifice of husband and wife over a long period of years, are soon wiped out when total unemployment affects the wage earner and his family over a period of months.

"The savings the wage earner has secured in a home, the ownership of which is the ambition of every American citizen, are likewise swept away in this holocaust of depression.

Wage Earners Lose Everything

The wage earner is not primarily concerned about the fall in the prices of securities. He is not forced merely to postpone the purchase of a new automobile. He cannot reduce his living standard by abandoning his country house in the summer. He has never owned it. He loses his economic all in a period of widespread unemployment.

Senator La Follette placed the number of unemployed at well over 8,000,000, and declared the wage loss of the workers since 1929 reaches eighteen billion dollars.

Local Relief Inadequate

He showed the extreme need for Federal relief by numerous statements from the testimony of witnesses before the Senate Committee on Manufactures in the hearings held on the La Follette-Costigan bill. He denied that responsibility for relief fell on the local governments and produced abundant testimony from municipal authorities and social welfare workers to show that local private and public relief resources are utterly inadequate to cope with the relief problem.

"No one can examine this evidence," Senator La Follette went on, "without being convinced that the need for action by the Federal Government in assisting the cities, counties, and States in meeting the problem of unemployment relief is one of the greatest emergencies that has ever confronted this Government.

Living and Health Standards Breaking

"Failure to enact this legislation will result in debased living standards for millions of people in the United States.

"Failure to step in and to provide adequate relief will result in breaking up hundreds of thousands of families.

"It will break down health standards.

Malnutrition and Disease

"We shall be paying the toll in malnutrition and its effect upon adults and children for 20 years to come if action is not taken to meet this emergency and to raise the standards of relief.

"The non-epidemic type of diseases will become prevalent. The public health director of the State of Pennsylvania has already publicly stated that an increase in tuberculosis, due to malnutrition, was evident in that State.

50 Years Progress Wiped Out

"The social progress which we have made in this country during the last 50 years will be wiped out, so far as millions of our population are concerned, if the relief burden is not adequately met.

"Our institutions themselves may be endangered by a prolongation of this depression, and a failure of Congress to meet its responsibility and to come to the assistance of citizens who are suffering as a result of economic disaster over which they had no control."

Ignore Governors' Delinquency

"Some Senators on this floor have indicated," he said, "that they are sympathetic with the case presented. They have indicated that they believe a case has been made.

"They have indicated that they considered the unemployment situation that existing relief resources are entirely inadequate and that actual want, privation, and hunger exists, so far as millions of our people are concerned; and yet they say, because the governors have not spoken, that they can not see their way clear to support legislation of this character.

"The logic of that position is simply this: that unless the governor of a State determines to make an appeal to the Federal Government, Senators are indifferent whether millions of people in those States starve or not.

Two Billion Federal Relief for Business

"What will be the reaction from failure to pass this bill or some other measure which adequately meets the critical character of this emergency?

"It will mean, in the last analysis, that the Congress of the United States, in facing the problem of unemployment and the business depression, has appropriated or extended the Government's credit to the total sum of $2,160,000,000 in order to stem the tide of depression in so far as railroad companies, insurance corporations, and banks are concerned, but that the Congress now turns its back upon the millions of unstanding, independent wage earners of this country who find themselves overwhelmed in this depression.

Wage Earners in Poverty and Despair

"I ask Senators also to consider the situation which will confront this Government if no action is taken.

"True, there have been enormous losses on the part of individuals owning property and securities; but for the most part they have had their standards of living enormously wiped out.

"So far as the wage earners are concerned, they are overwhelmed by the effects of this prolonged depression into a bottomless pit of poverty and despair.

Government Must Not Favor Organized Wealth

"Proceed, if you will. Make the record that you will extend relief to organized wealth in this situation to the tune of $2,160,000,000, and that you will turn your backs upon the millions of unemployed wage earners who are suffering want, privation and misery. But I say that if you fail to meet this issue now, you will meet it later.

"You can not duck it. You can not dodge it. You can not get out, so far as offering substitutes that fail to meet the emergency character of the situation.

"Senators say that this is a problem for local government; that it is no concern of the Federal Government.

Children Maimed by Malnutrition

"The Federal Government is just as much concerned in the future citizenship of this Republic as the local communities, if not more so.

"If we permit the situation to go on, millions of children will be maimed in body, if not warped in mind, by the effects of malnutrition.

"They will form the citizenship upon which the future of this country must depend.

"They are the hope of America."

McGrady Gives AFL Support To $375,000,000 Relief Unemployment Relief Bill

Washington, Feb. 6.—Immediate enactment of the La Follette-Costigan bill in the Senate appropriating $375,000,000 for Federal relief of destitution caused by unemployment, and its companion measure in the House sponsored by Representative David J. Lewis of Maryland was advocated before the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives by Edward J. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor.

8,000,000 Unemployed

Mr. McGrady told the committee there was greater need for Federal relief now than when the hearings were held on the La Follette-Costigan bill by the Senate Manufactures Committee.

He estimated there are 8,000,000 men and women without any work at all, many of whom have been idle from six months to two years. In addition, seven million more are working only one, two, or three days a week. The distress and hunger line has lengthened and widened and is fast approaching the point that will spell disorder.

Children Forced Out of School

Mr. McGrady pointed out that none of the $2,000,000,000 maximum authorized by the Finance Reconstruction Corporation law would relieve the starving people or produce the shoes for want of which, in the coal fields of Ohio alone, 6,000 children cannot attend school.

Wages, he said, are twelve billion dollars below what they were in 1929, with over $200,000,000 additional less for labor now to pay the railroad deficits imposed on the railroad workers by the railroad executives.

Jobless Crisis Is National Calamity

The Community Chests, McGrady declared, are in cities and not in rural districts, and the rural districts are "broke." He insisted that the unemployment crisis is a national calamity with a national source calling for a national cure. He said the essential thing now is speed of legislation for relief, and declared that the La Follette-Costigan-Lewis proposal would make funds available within 30 days of enactment of the legislation.

Congress Fiddles While Jobless Suffer

Mr. McGrady criticized certain members of Congress who were reported to be attempting to kill or delay the relief legislation.

"In these dark hours of despair," he said, "the leaders of Congress seem, like Nero, to be fiddling while millions of humans suffer from hunger and cold.

"We deeply regret that there appears to have developed in the minds of some of our congressional leaders a desire to recommit the La Follette-Costigan bill for further study. If this course is pursued it means delay, and delay will have disastrous results upon hungry men, women, and children in practically every State in the Union.

"There is no room to be a desire to appropriate money, not for immediate relief, but for use on public works. This would also act as a preventive of immediate relief. In order to spend money on public works it would take several months to draft plans, advertise for bids, and let contracts. This would not answer the cry of millions of people who need relief immediately.

Loans to States Impracticable

"The idea that a loan of this money might be lent to the States rather than given to them. This proposal is not practical. A number of the States have already borrowed to their legal capacity. Moreover, the States could not accept the loans without the consent of the legislatures and very few of the legislatures may convene. The loaning proposal means delay.

Delay Drives Idle to Desperation

"It is high time for relief that is driving people to desperation. Consequently it is our prayer to Congress that relief be not delayed."

"There are hundreds of thousands of hungry men and women, victims of malnutrition and disease, which go with poverty, who are on the verge of starvation ,tramping the highways and byways and living in hovels. They might well be called our unburied dead. They can be saved, but only by quick action."

FEDERAL JOBLESS RELIEF URGED BY DR. O'GRADY

Washington, Feb. 6.—Rev. John O'Grady, secretary of the National Catholic Charities, stressed the need of prompt Federal appropriation for unemployment relief in his testimony before the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives which held hearings on the bill sponsored by Representative David J. Lewis of Maryland authorizing an appropriation of $375,000,000 for the alleviation of distress among the unemployed and their dependents.

Federal Aid Required

The City of New York, Dr. O'Grady pointed out, has appropriated $20,000,000 for home relief and work relief, but the demand had been so great that many relief stations had to close, and there are many families there who can not be taken care of now.

Every community needs assistance from the Federal Government, he said.

He declared the Reconstruction Finance Act would peg prices and values, but would not bring relief to suffering people, and what is needed is direct relief from Congress.

Public Works Urged

He said it had been a mistake to curtail public works because such work have decreased $150,000,000 this year, reducing the purchasing power of the people that much. He stated the Federal Government is the only agency having access to sources of funds that would bring direct relief.

BRITISH COOPERATIVES IN SOUND CONDITION

6½ Million Members, 10,000 Stores — 20,000,000 Pounds Dividends on Purchases.

Manchester, Eng., Feb. 6. — The British cooperative movement is riding through the business depression much better than privately owned concerns, according to a review of the year by H. J. Twigg in the Millgate Monthly.

"The British cooperative movement," Mr. Twigg says, "stands broad based on the 1,100 retail or 'store' societies, with their 10,000 shops and membership of six and a half million, which form a network of cooperative organization throughout the length and breadth of these islands.

"Actually the impact of the worldwide economic blizzard on the stores has been of surprisingly limited effect. Their membership and capital resources have continued, largely in the large 'regional' societies, which are proving themselves the first flush of the changing needs of modern retail trade.

217,000,000 Pounds Annual Trade

Mr. Twigg declares that during 1930 the trade of the retail stores reached 217,000,000 pounds, a slight advance over 1929. "During 1931 the continuous, despite further heavy falls in retail price levels, the decline of cooperative trade is incomparably less than many others, and is unlikely to reach 8 per cent for the country as a whole, thus pointing inexorably to the conclusion that trade is being diverted from competitive to cooperative channels."

"The financial returns from cooperative storekeeping," Mr. Twigg says, "have continued to be of a remarkable character, societies returning some 20,000,000 pounds to their members as dividends on purchases in 1930, and a similar amount in 1931, besides other inducements to trade in the form of free insurance, educational and social advantages, etc."

100,000,000 Pounds Wholesale Trade

The Cooperative Wholesale Societies did the business for a round 100,000,000 pounds in 1931 compared with 104,000,000 in 1930, the decrease being largely accounted for by the drop in wholesale price levels.

The Cooperative Wholesale Societies' banking department had a turnover of 733,694,265 pounds in 1930, with considerable advance in 1931, and cooperative insurance touched new records with its premium income of 4,548,785 pounds in 1930.

"The army of cooperative workers," Mr. Twigg concludes, "has grown rapidly of late. At the beginning of 1931 the movement was employing 257,493 of its members in varied activities, but under uniformly good conditions of labor."

HOUSE FORBIDS U. S. PAY RAISES AND PROMOTIONS

La Guardia Says Action Imposes Wage Servitude — Claims Bankers Are Inspiring Wage Cuts.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The House of Representatives eliminated all possibility of pay raises, promotions and filling of vacancies in the Federal service without presidential approval for the entire fiscal year when a special rule ordering a restriction placed on every appropriation bill was approved without a record vote.

Representative La Guardia of New York opposed the restriction as breaking faith with employees who have years of service have qualified for higher rates of pay.

Starvation Wages Paid

"There are substitutes in the Post Office Department," he said, "who have been waiting four or five years for a contract, to be appointed as a regular clerk or carrier in the Post Office Department. They are now working at $5 and 40 cents an hour.

"In New York they average $1.50 and $2 a day, and they have waited four and five years. According to this resolution, these will continue to work for the United States Government on starvation wages, instead of starting, after an apprenticeship of five years, on the $1,700 basis guaranteed by the law. All clerks and carriers will be deprived of their annual automatic increase, to which they become entitled by the solemn contract, Congress breaking faith with these employees.

"This stops all appointments in all departments. We might as well disband the entire Civil Service Commission and all its employees, because there will be no new appointments made.

Attacks Living Standards

"It is the most un-American thing that was ever suggested to Congress. It simply now attacks the living standards. It makes every position static. No employe has a hope of promotion, and I repeat now, as I have said before, and as I am going to continue to say, we are simply doing something that has been urged from the outside, in a general movement in this country to cut down wages and American standards of living. That is not the way to get out of this economic depression.

Interest Rates Maintained

"I do not see any attempt being made to cut down rates of interest or dividends. In fact, we have subsidized the very element urging reduction of salaries to the extent of $2,000,000,000. Every incompetent banker is telling businessmen to reduce salaries.

"Where were all of you gentlemen now voting for this rule on the question of wages and the standards of living prated $150,000,000 and gave an authorization for the issuance of $1,500,000,000 of bonds?

Credit Beneficiaries Urge Wage Cuts

"The beneficiaries of the $2,000,000,000 are now urging the American Congress to set a new standard by reducing the standard of wages and the standard of living.

"Yes, these financial failures and bond fakers are now trying to shift the burden of the depression on the backs of the laboring people. I say it is wrong in morals. It is wrong in law. It is unfair and indecent."

TAX ON AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER LUXURIES DEMANDED BY GREEN

Sales Tax and Tax Boosts for Masses Opposed—Estate, Gift, and Inheritance Taxes Approved.

Washington, Feb. 6.—A strong demand for a tax on automobiles and other luxuries and opposition to increasing income taxes in the lower brackets or lowering exemptions, were made by Federation President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and the Federation's Legislative Committee, consisting of William C. Roberts, D. C. McGrady, and W. C. Hushing, in a letter containing recommendations on taxation sent to Hon. James W. Collier, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives.

After reiterating the Federation's opposition to the sales tax and its demand for the re-enactment of the gift tax, and heavy increases in estate and inheritance taxes, the letter continued:

Increase on Small Incomes Opposed

"We do not believe there should be any reduction in exemptions or increases in the lower brackets. The great reductions that have already been made during the past two years and a half.

"Unemployment has been and is now acute and millions of people have been forced to support their relatives and friends to keep them from starvation.

"We do not see how anyone can honestly recommend any specific item of taxation that will add to the burden now borne by the masses as a result of unemployment.

"We do not believe that any increase should be made on the tax on amusements.

Luxury Taxes Favored

"But there are certain luxuries that can be taxed that will bring in large revenues. Among them is the automobile. A five per cent tax on all motor cars would not affect the poor.

"Surtaxes should be increased, as those who are able to pay the taxes are certainly able to pay more.

"The automobile industry should be required to pay its fair share of the national taxes.

"The industry, not even steel, has created as many multi-millionaires as has the automobile industry.

"Through mass production and low wages the automobile manufacturers have been able to accumulate millions while their employes, have suffered severely because of total or part-time unemployment.

"There are other luxuries that offer a ready tax. They are the luxuries that should be taxed, but the first on the list should be the five per cent tax on automobiles.

"We submit this to you in the hope that the recommendations herein made will be favorably received."

AFL ENDORSES ORNBURN FOR U. S TARIFF BOARD

Washington, Feb. 6.—The appointment of I. M. Ornburn, president of the Clgarmakers' International Union of America, to be a member of the United States Tariff Commission, received the endorsement of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its February meeting here.

The Council urged the friends of labor in the United States Senate to vote for the confirmation of his appointment.

MAX FREUND, BAKERY UNION OFFICIAL, DIES

New York, Feb. 6.—Max Freund, a member of the Executive Board of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America, died here on January 31.

AFL COUNCIL VETOES WORLD LABOR PARLEY

Present Conditions Make Proposal of International Federation of Trade Unions Undesirable.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor decided that world conditions make it inadvisable for the Federation to participate in the World Economic Conference proposed by the International Federation of Trade Unions.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, made the following statement to the press after the session:

"The Executive Council considered an invitation which it received from the officers of the International Federation of Trade Unions, with headquarters at Berlin, to send representatives to the International Economic Conference at Geneva or at some other city centrally located.

"The invitation contained an alternative proposition that in case the American Federation of Labor found it impossible to send a delegation to a meeting in Europe that the officers of the International Federation of Trade Unions would come to America for a conference.

"The Executive Council decided, in view of world conditions now prevailing, that no good purpose would be served through the attendance of representatives of the International Federation of Labor at such a conference as was proposed.

"While sympathetic with the economic problems of Europe and the rest of the world and while the American Federation of Labor desires to be serviceable and helpful in every way possible through the extension of international co-operation, the Executive Council is of the opinion that it would be a most inopportune time to hold an International Labor Conference.

"In making this decision the Executive Council kept steadily in mind the political and economic situation in Europe, the disturbed condition in Asia and the widespread unemployment situation which prevails throughout the United States.

"A comprehensive and detailed reply to the invitation extended is being sent the officers of the International Federation of Trade Unions at Berlin."

BANKERS OPPOSE INCREASE IN POSTAL SAVINGS LIMIT

Washington, Feb. 6.—Bankers are opposed to the Steagall amendment, a posit which one person may carry in the U. S. Postal Savings System from $2,500 to $5,000.

Third Assistant Postmaster General Tolton told the House Committee that the maximum deposit to $5,000 in the Post Office Savings System would not bring out hoarded money, estimated at $1,500,000,000, out of hiding and make it available for the use of commerce under the provision that the Postal Savings System is required by law to deposit the savings in the banks.

The increase was opposed by Home G. Stephenson of South Bend, Ind., former president of the American Bankers Association. He claimed the increase in permitted deposits would injure the small banks, which are experiencing difficulty in putting up the bonds required by the Government for the safety of the Postal Savings deposited in the banks. Other bankers agreed with Mr. Stephenson.

AFL Council Endorses La Follette-Costigan Unemployment Relief Bill

FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR PORTO RICO

A. F. of L. Chief Urges Hoover to Approve $100,000,000 U. S. Government Loan for Economic Rehabilitation.

Washington, Feb. 6.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, urged President Hoover to use his influence to have the United States Government refund the insular and municipal debts of Porto Rico, amounting to $50,000,000, and to advance an additional $50,000,000 over a period of ten years to complete the economic rehabilitation of the Island on a sound basis.

"For over thirty years," Mr. Green's statement to the President said, "the A. F. of L. Membership of Porto Rico has been a member of the American Federation of Labor. Our national conventions have always given recognition to the insular labor delegates in their capacity of representatives of the State Branch of Porto Rico. Furthermore, the American Federation of Labor has given all the aid and help possible to the working classes of that Island and the public in general.

Financial Assistance Necessary

"At the last convention of the American Federation of Labor resolutions and recommendations were unanimously adopted earnestly urging me as President of the American Federation of Labor to place before you the economic condition now existing in Porto Rico and from you a correction of those conditions."

Mr. Green's statement then quoted the resolution of the A. F. of L. refunding plan and the additional $50,000,000 loan adopted by the 1931 convention of the A. F. of L., which stated that the $100,000,000 represent no more than the normal purchasing power made annually by Porto Rico from the United States and would create a healthier, happier and more healthier community of American citizens in the Caribbean, whose increasing welfare would be a constantly growing market with every prospect of enlarging the American business and further revenues for both the insular and Federal governments.

Economic Rehabilitation Main Need

"Of course," Mr. Green's statement to the President concluded, "I am aware of your thorough knowledge of the situation and conditions of the people of Porto Rico, especially after your recent visit to the Island and the various reports given to you by former Governor Roosevelt, with whom I am in accord in his plans to make the Island a better community in which to live.

"Therefore, I am writing to urge you to extend to Porto Rico the full benefits of the various Federal provisions for unemployment, financial and agricultural relief approved and to be approved by you and Congress, because only with the aid of the Federal Government will the Porto Rican people be in a position to enforce effectively their plans for economic rehabilitation indispensable to the welfare, progress and happiness of the million and a half citizens of the United States residing in the Island."

FEDERAL RELIEF FOR PORTO RICO

Declares Substitute Bill Is a Subterfuge—Local Relief Has Broken Down—Prompt Action Required by Congress to Meet Needs of the Hungry.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor gave its full support to the La Follette-Costigan Federal unemployment relief bill authorizing the appropriation of $375,000,000 to be loaned to the States in cooperation with the States and vigorously condemned the efforts of certain persons to defeat the bill, in a statement issued by William Green, president of the Federation, in a statement regarding the Council's action.

The Council pronounced as a "mere subterfuge" the substitute bill to appropriate $372,000,000 for the construction of Federal-aid roads and another $375,000,000 to be loaned to the States for jobless relief as proposed by the governors.

The action of the Council follows:

Federal Aid Is Necessary

"The Costigan-La Follette measure, which provides for the appropriation of $375,000,000 to be loaned to the States, is given full and complete endorsement by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

"The need for such an appropriation is very great.

"Local relief agencies are unable to supply the needs of many communities.

"Men, women and children are suffering, and conditions are acute in isolated mining sections of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas, West Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Illinois, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Michigan, and elsewhere.

Real Emergency Exists

"The situation presents a real emergency.

"There is no time to draw the fine line of distinction between the appropriation of funds for relief purposes between the public improvements and the Federal Government.

"The call has come to all branches of Government and agencies to help those who are hungry and in distress.

"It is inconceivable that Congress would specifically appropriate billions to help financiers, banks and corporations and refuse to appropriate the needed sum for the purpose of feeding the hungry.

Substitute Bill Is a Subterfuge

"The Executive Council regards the attempt to offer a substitute measure for the Costigan-La Follette bill as a mere subterfuge.

"It is not a question now, in mid-winter, of roads or States which have no authority to borrow or to try to devise a public works program.

"The real question is supplying aid immediately, at the earliest possible moment, to those who are in dire need.

Congress Should Act Quickly

"The Council believes that Congress should help quickly.

"It should help now.

"It should respond, as fully and as promptly to the needs of hungry men, women and children as it responded to the call for help from financial organizations when it passed the two billion financial reconstruction bill."